Country: Singapore

Committee Name: International Maritime Organization

Topic: Rise of Megaships and Convenience of Flags

**Agenda Item 1: Rise of Megaships**

Singapore recognizes the significant impact of the rise of megaships on the maritime industry. As a global hub for shipping and a leading maritime nation, we understand the importance of adapting to evolving industry trends. Megaships have demonstrated increased efficiency, reduced emissions per TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit), and greater economies of scale. However, there are also concerns regarding the potential strain on ports, navigational challenges, and environmental implications.[[1]](#footnote-0)

To address these issues, Singapore proposes the following measures:

Infrastructure Development: Encourage member states to invest in the enhancement and expansion of port facilities to accommodate megaships, including deeper drafts, larger berths, and advanced cargo handling equipment.

Technological Advancements: Promote research and development of innovative technologies, such as autonomous vessels, smart ports, and advanced navigation systems, to improve the handling and safety of megaships.

Collaboration with Industry Stakeholders: Encourage collaboration between shipping companies, port operators, and relevant authorities to develop standardized protocols and best practices for the safe and efficient handling of megaships.

Environmental Sustainability: Advocate for the adoption of eco-friendly technologies and practices on board megaships, including the use of low-emission fuels, ballast water treatment systems, and energy-efficient designs.

Regulatory Framework: Establish clear and comprehensive regulations governing the operation of megaships, including safety standards, crew training, and emergency response procedures.

**Agenda Item 2: Convenience of Flags**

Singapore acknowledges the importance of the convenience of flags in the context of vessel registration and regulatory compliance. A flag of convenience (FOC) can provide certain benefits to shipowners, including reduced administrative burdens and potentially lower operating costs. However, it is essential to ensure that such convenience does not compromise safety, security, or environmental standards.

Singapore proposes the following measures:[[2]](#footnote-1)

Transparency and Accountability: Advocate for increased transparency and disclosure requirements for vessels operating under flags of convenience, including the disclosure of beneficial ownership information.

Regulatory Oversight: Strengthen the role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in monitoring and regulating vessels registered under flags of convenience, ensuring compliance with international standards and conventions.

Flag State Responsibilities: Encourage flag states to assume greater responsibility for the oversight and enforcement of regulations, including conducting regular inspections and audits of vessels flying their flag.

International Cooperation: Promote collaboration among member states, flag states, and industry stakeholders to share information and best practices for flag state administration and enforcement.

Capacity Building: Provide support and resources to developing countries seeking to improve their flag state capabilities, including training programs, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives.

In conclusion, Singapore is committed to working collaboratively with fellow member states and industry stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the rise of megaships and the convenience of flags. By implementing these proposed measures, we believe we can ensure a safer, more efficient, and environmentally sustainable maritime industry for all.

1. Wilson, S. (2020, August 28). *The impact of mega-ships*. ITF. https://www.itf-oecd.org/impact-mega-ships [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. *Flags of convenience*. NGO Shipbreaking Platform. (2022, January 14). https://shipbreakingplatform.org/issues-of-interest/focs/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)